Remarks/Arguments

The Office Action mailed May 8, 2007 has been reviewed and carefully considered.

Claims 14 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 3, 4, 11 and 13 have been amended. Claims 1-13 are now pending in this application.

Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested. It should be noted that the applicants are not conceding in this application that the amended claims in their prior form are not patentable over the art cited by the examiner, as the present claim amendments have been made only to facilitate expeditious prosecution of the application. The applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

The Abstract stands objected to because it contains the word "means" therein.

The Abstract has been amended in a way believed to overcome the objection.

Claims 14 and 15 stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being in improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claims 14 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 4, 11 and 13 stand objected to for including various informalities. The claims have been amended in a way believed to overcome the objection.

Claims 3, 4 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter

Serial No.: 10/553,559

Art Unit: 2821

Confirmation No. 4048

which the applicants regard as the invention. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended in a

way believed to overcome the rejection.

Regarding claim 11, the examiner states that the claim appears to be mis-

descriptive because the examiner asserts that the specification does not disclose an

inductor provided in the external starter circuit, citing p. 11, line 10 and Fig. 2. The

applicants note that the feature of providing an inductance in both the ballast circuit and

the external starter circuit is disclosed at least at p. 12, lines 17-20 of the Specification.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection on this particular ground is respectfully

requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable

over Cohen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,163,176) (hereinafter 'Cohen') in view of Otsuka et

al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,780,329) (hereinafter 'Otsaka').

Cohen discloses a discharge lamp comprising an extended base including

impedance means for reducing current through the lamp (Cohen, Abstract). In addition,

the lamp of Cohen has a shorter discharge vessel than a standard lamp but has the same

total length as a standard lamp due to the extended base (Cohen, Abstract).

Otsuka discloses a discharge lamp having a filling gas comprising mercury and

80% or 65% composition of Krypton (Otsuka, column 1, line 20; Abstract). Otsuka also

discloses the filling pressure of the lamp's discharge vessel as being between 1.0 mmHg

(130 Pa) to 3.5 mmHg (470 Pa) (Otsuka, column 2, lines 8-9).

However, Cohen and Otsuka, taken singly or in any combination, do not disclose

or suggest a lamp having a filling pressure above 100,000 Pa. Cohen discloses a

discharge vessel with a filling pressure of 4 torr (530 Pa) (Cohen, column 1, line 50).

-9-

Serial No.: 10/553,559

Art Unit: 2821

Confirmation No. 4048

Moreover, as stated above, Otsuka discloses the pressure within the discharge vessel as

being 130 Pa to 470 Pa.

Nowhere does Cohen and/or Otsuka, taken singly or in combination, even

remotely suggest increasing the filling pressure by approximately 200 times the amount

<u>disclosed</u>. The filling pressure of the discharge vessels described in the references is on

the order of a few hundred Pascal, essentially approaching the pressure of a vacuum.

One of ordinary skill in the art would not vary the pressure to at least 100,000 Pa through

routine experimentation. In addition, increasing the filling pressure to 100,000 Pa results

in a high wattage consumption, thereby reducing the efficiency lamp (Specification, p. 3,

lines 31-32). Accordingly, it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to

increase the filling pressure to at least 100,000 Pa.

The present principles, however, include a method of offsetting disadvantages

related to a filling pressure above 100,000 Pa in a gas discharge lamp. Specifically, the

present principles include an optimization of the interrelationship between the filling

pressure, the composition of the filling gas, and the inductance of the lamp circuit,

resulting in a power-efficient gas discharge lamp having a pressure above 100,000 Pa

(Specification, p. 3, line 26-29; p. 3, line 34 to p. 4, line 4). Cohen and/or Otsuka, taken

singly or in combination, fail to even remotely suggest such an optimization.

Accordingly, the present principles are believed to be patentably distinguished

from the references, as a gas discharge lamp having a filling pressure above 100,000 Pa is

not rendered obvious.

-10-

Serial No.: 10/553,559

Art Unit: 2821

Confirmation No. 4048

Claim 1 includes, inter alia: ". . . low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp

comprising: a light-transmitting discharge vessel . . . the gas pressure in the discharge

vessel (10) being greater than 1·10⁵ Pa."

Thus, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over Cohen and Otsuka, taken singly or

in combination, at least because the references do not disclose or suggest a gas discharge

lamp with a filling pressure above 100,000 Pa. In addition, claims 2-13 are believed to

be patentable due at least to their dependencies from claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the rejections of

the claims set forth in the Office Action of May 8, 2007 be withdrawn, that pending

claims 1-13 be allowed, and that the case proceed to early issuance of Letters Patent in

due course.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the

event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the

application, they may be charged to applicant's representatives Deposit Account No. 50-

1433.

Respectfully submitted,

Rν·

James J. Bitet

(Reg. No. 40,513)

Correspondence Address:

PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS

P.O. BOX 3001

BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

-11-